

# The Hawaiian Star

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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GEORGE F. HENSHALL.....EDITOR.

THURSDAY.....DECEMBER 30, 1909.

## THE FAR EASTERN CRISIS.

Two days ago China protested against what she called violation by the Japanese of the Manchuria telegraph convention. Three weeks ago China protested against Russia's claims of right to administer railway zones in Manchuria. In the meantime Secretary Knox is moved to frequent denials that the United States is protesting against violation of the Open Door, while leading American papers refuse to accept his decision that there is no violation. From St. Petersburg come Russian press complaints of violations of the Portsmouth treaty, and, says one paper: "General Unterberger, Governor of Russia's coastal territory, reports that Japan is arming at full speed, and that Japanese commercial firms in Russian territory are liquidating their affairs. In consequence of Japan's attitude, there have been conferences in St. Petersburg of the members of the Imperial Defense Commission." In the meantime, if there are any known protests between the Tokio and Washington governments, they come from Tokio. It is admitted that Tokio is dissatisfied with present immigration regulations and as the time for a new treaty with America, or a renewal of the old one, is near, she is seeking to modify them.

All of which indicates that when it comes to diplomacy and international policies, the wise men of Tokio lack neither brains nor nerve.

## CAN REGULATE LIQUOR.

The Board of Liquor Commissioners is not exercising all the power given to it when it decides to notify a San Francisco firm that it has no power to prevent the sale of "imitation whiskey." The board has absolute discretion in the matter of granting and renewing licenses. All the board needs to do is to announce that licensees who sell stuff of this sort will be looked upon unfavorably when the time comes to renew their licenses—and the sale will stop. It is for purposes of this sort that the board was given discretionary powers not subject to appeal. It makes the board responsible for how the saloons are conducted.

## NOT THOUGHT UNPATRIOTIC.

Our neighbor, the San Francisco Evening Post, devotes considerable editorial space to a discussion of Honolulu's efforts to have the coastwise shipping regulations suspended. It shows a very clear understanding of the situation. It says that the law is patriotic in its purpose and met with the general approval of Americans in Hawaii, and then adds:

And the protest of Honolulu business men is not against the law itself so much as against its present enforcement. Temporary suspension is desired in order to meet present needs. Those who wished to travel between Hawaiian and other American ports have recently suffered from the coastwise regulation because they have been unable to secure prompt accommodations on American vessels. This is due, largely, to increased passenger traffic. It has discouraged travel. Confronted with the alternative of indefinite delay or a \$200 fine, many tourists have abandoned their plans for Pacific ocean excursions and have gone elsewhere. This, naturally, has affected business in Hawaii. Business men there argue that it is better to let Japanese steamship companies share the profits derived from tourist travel than not to have any profits at all.

Of course it never occurred to the Post that it was un-American, for an American community to ask that the government cease to keep its own citizens out of the Territory.

The New York Sun, interviewing our Governor while he was in the national metropolis, had the following: "He doesn't exactly know how long he will be detained in Washington, but as everything is quiet and prosperous at home he is not in any special hurry." This was before the Governor heard from Kuhio's island trip.

## THE LACK OF SCHOOLHOUSES.

An appropriation of three and a half million dollars for new school buildings in New York City is not more, in proportion to population, than would be an appropriation of forty thousand dollars for the same purpose in the city of Honolulu proper. This amount is two thousand dollars less than the cost of the Royal School house alone five years ago. Unfortunately the Legislature of 1909 made no provision whatever for the erection of school buildings, notwithstanding the fact of rapidly increasing revenues. The increase for the first six months of the biennial period will be about \$400,000, yet hundreds of thousands of children are kept out of school for lack of accommodation. In fact the only spasm of liberality to education the Legislature exhibited was in a fairly generous provision for the College of Hawaii. Probably this was induced largely by the necessity of meeting the Federal government's subsidy to that institution, which would not be available unless the Territory did its part. A territorial college without a good common school system as its substructure would, however, make a top-heavy educational fabric. The common schools are the feeders of the higher institutions.

It is not the people of Honolulu or of the Territory who are to blame for the blundering omission of the Legislature to make any provision for additional school accommodation. Practically every election platform upon which legislators have been elected, for years past, has emphasized the popular desire to maintain the educational system of Hawaii as it should be maintained. Yet the Legislature last elected under such a mandate not only refused to provide for new schoolhouses but rejected an alternative plan of enabling the counties, with the approval and direction of the Governor, to make such provision by means either of a loan or of a special tax that would scarcely be felt while leaving no trail of additional public debt behind it. The pity of it is that for eighteen months to come the people will be helpless to remedy the situation while the necessity for action will every day be growing more acute. There is just the bare possibility that the increasing revenues will enable the counties, in some little measure, to afford relief.

Reverting to the example of New York City which has been held up for imitation, it may be mentioned that it is not also without a warning. The large appropriation for buildings there has been the subject of adverse criticism, from the fact that its terms involve a sacrifice of room to display. It is said that the expenditure of the three and a

half millions will leave thousands of children still without school accommodation, because most of it will go into a few palatial edifices at conspicuous points which will not come near accommodating all the children of the metropolis at present excluded from school for want of room. Such a regard for architectural effects at the expense of usefulness in school construction should be avoided here when the people resume school building. The danger line has indeed been approached in some of Honolulu's modern schoolhouses, and even passed in cases where size gave way to style or delay was caused in building through extravagance in architectural designs.

## Commercial News

BY L. D. TIMMONS.

Considering the fact that the stock Exchange is having a vacation there has been no small activity in several stocks since yesterday. There is considerable demand on the streets at strong figures, and there seems to be an unusual lack of response on the part of sellers.

Actual sales have been small, although between 200 and 300 shares of Ewa have changed hands at \$32.50. A few shares Hawaiian Commercial sold at \$37 and a few of Hawaiian Sugar at \$52. Pioneer is being offered at \$198. Five shares Wai'alua sold on the streets this morning at \$121, which is about the basis for this stock. McBryde is in demand around \$5, with little on the market at that figure. Olua is inactive, but will probably spring into prominence again in a few days on account of the consolidation of the bond issue a few days ago.

Inquiries are frequently coming up in regard to other stocks, but nothing has occurred to indicate any changes since last Friday as to them. The Stock Exchange will resume its sessions next Monday morning.

## EWA'S WATERMELON.

Ewa plantation will make a great, big year-end present to its stockholders. The award will be in the nature of one per cent regular and two per cent extra dividends—three per cent in all. The total sum to be distributed is \$150,000.

## MOUNTAIN KING.

The "expected" is happening in respect to Mountain King mining stock. The promoters of the proposition are referred to for interesting particulars.

## MORE FILIPINOS.

The immigration officials are all ready to receive the 94 Filipino laborers, due to arrive in the Nippon Maru this evening. This lot is another Steven shipment, and the laborers are said to have been carefully selected by the Hawaiian agent.

## MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Merchants' Association held yesterday afternoon a number of important matters were gone into.

The first discussion was on the matter of giving indiscriminately to real or alleged charities, it being brought out that, owing to lack of system, the

merchants not infrequently support appeals unwisely. A resolution was introduced deploring the use of subscription lists or petitions for indiscriminate giving. This was referred to the trade and finance committee.

The trading stamps matter came up again, and it was pointed out that the desired object could probably be reached easier through Federal channels, and it was decided to take the matter up with United States District Attorney Breckons. It was decided also to invite the co-operation of the Japanese Merchants' Association in the same matter, as the Japanese are largely concerned in the trading stamp question.

The matter of discounts on private accounts was taken up. It appears that of late there has been considerable abuse of the system. After discussion it was decided to discourage discounts except in transactions between business institutions.

The matter of the annual dinner was brought up and tabled for future consideration.

The attention of the association was drawn to the number of rats which came ashore from the American Maru and which are probably landed by other vessels, and the sentiment was that greater care should be exercised, even if it becomes necessary to fumigate vessels upon arrival here. The subject will be taken up with the Federal quarantine authorities.

It was decided to take up the matter of the widening of Hotel street with the county supervisors at their next meeting.

## COMMERCIAL CLUB.

At the meeting of the governors of the Commercial Club held yesterday afternoon five new members were elected and five names were posted to be balloted upon later.

The subject of amending the by-laws

(Continued on Page Four.)

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